

## An Aldrich Incident

ISSN 0003-4827

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### Recommended Citation

"An Aldrich Incident." *The Annals of Iowa* 24 (1942), 84-84.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.6169>

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The personnel and details of the program and organization of the Iowa War Records Commission will be announced the first of the fall. Suggestions and helps to all groups and all cooperating agencies will be prepared and distributed as soon as possible after the formation of the Commission. In the meantime, let every county in Iowa, let every town and village in the state, plan now to preserve all the information possible regarding its contributions to the progress of World War II.

We firmly believe that if this crisis is worthy of our sacrifice, if this war is worthy of our lives, it is worthy of a record. Let us make it possible for the generations to come to know and to cherish their history! K. E. C.

### **AN ALDRICH INCIDENT**

Many letters of commendation and appreciation have been received regarding the brief story of the origin and development of the Iowa Historical Department in THE ANNALS OF IOWA for April. This was prepared, quite as much as for anything else, to get together in one story the narrative of the making of the Department and at a time when the events have not yet faded from memory. A letter from Mr. L. L. Bingham, formerly of Estherville and member of the Iowa General Assembly, comes from Los Angeles saying:

"Iowans at home or sojourning elsewhere are indebted to you and your associations for the faithfully fine work you are doing in the interest of us and the generations of Iowans yet to be."

The *Daily Freeman-Journal*, of Webster City, republished a large part of the article, especially as it told the story of the struggles of Charles Aldrich, and W. F. Hunter, the editor, added the following note as an interesting incident:

"Mr. Aldrich told us of the experience he had in getting the autograph of Gen. W. T. Sherman. He forwarded a letter to the general asking his signature to place in the Historical Department of Iowa. The general was a crusty old fellow and replied saying 'I have no time to waste on cranks and publicity seekers.' That of course, riled Aldrich, who was very sensitive and easily offended, and he wrote Sherman that if he failed to send his autograph, as requested, the gingery letter of the general would be preserved in the archives of the State of Iowa. Well, the old general cooled off, and sent the desired autograph."

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